

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating viable epithelial cells from a solution, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:
 - providing an antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof which binds to an extracellular domain of prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA);
 - contacting said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof with a magnetizable medium under conditions permitting binding of said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof to said magnetizable medium;
 - contacting a solution containing said epithelial cells with said magnetizable medium bound to said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof under conditions permitting binding of said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof to said epithelial cells to form a complex including said magnetizable medium, said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof, and said epithelial cells;
 - contacting said complex with a magnetized matrix under conditions permitting isolation of said complex from said solution; and
 - eluting said epithelial cells from said magnetized matrix.
2. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof is selected from the group consisting of a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody, an F(ab), an F(ab')₂, and an F_v.
3. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof is a monoclonal antibody.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said monoclonal antibody is ~~a member~~ selected from the group consisting of an E99, J415, a J533, and a J591 monoclonal antibody.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said monoclonal antibody is a J591 monoclonal antibody.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody produced by a hybridoma cell line having an ATCC Accession Number selected from the group consisting of HB-12101, HB-12109, HB-12127, and HB-12126.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said epithelial cells are selected from the group consisting of normal epithelial cells, benign hyperplastic epithelial cells, cancerous epithelial cells, normal prostate epithelial cells, benign hyperplastic prostate epithelial cells, and cancerous prostate epithelial cells.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein said epithelial cells are cancerous prostate epithelial cells.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein said cancerous prostate epithelial cells are prostatic adenocarcinoma cells.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said magnetized matrix is a magnetic activated cell sorter (MACS).

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim ~~10~~ 1, wherein said magnetized matrix is in the form of a separating column.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said solution ~~includes~~ comprises a biological fluid.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said biological fluid is ~~a member~~ selected from the group consisting of blood, urine, semen, seminal fluid, lymph, cerebrospinal fluid, mucus, tears, sweat, gastric fluid, saliva, synovial fluid, and a bone marrow

suspension.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said biological fluid ~~includes~~ comprises semen.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said solution comprises a tissue culture medium.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for isolating cancerous vascular endothelial cells from a solution, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing an antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof which binds to an extracellular domain of prostate specific membrane antigen (PSMA);

contacting said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof with a magnetizable medium under conditions permitting binding of said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof to said magnetizable medium;

contacting a solution containing said cancerous vascular endothelial cells with said magnetizable medium bound to said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof under conditions permitting binding of said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof to said cancerous vascular endothelial cells to form a complex containing said magnetizable medium, said antibody or antigen-binding portion thereof, and said cancerous vascular endothelial cells;

contacting said complex with a magnetized matrix under conditions permitting isolation of said of said complex from said solution; and

eluting said epithelial cells from said magnetized matrix.